

Date: January 19, 2024

To: All Legislators

From: Representatives Jill Billings and Robyn Vining

Re: Co-sponsorship of LRB-4964/1 relating to: prohibiting vaping on public and private school property

**Deadline: Wednesday, January 24 at 5 pm**

In 2019, the Department of Health Services issued a health advisory on youth vaping to inform parents, teachers, health professionals, and the general public of the risks associated with youth vaping. While efforts to reduce youth use of conventional cigarettes over the past few decades have largely been successful, [1 in 10 high school students and approximately 1 in 20 middle school students report using e-cigarettes](#). The Youth Vaping Prevention Package will build on the progress that has been made by taking further steps to prevent youth exposure to the health risks of vaping. This legislation will combat the public health risks of vaping within our schools by prohibiting vaping on school premises.

The negative effects of child and adolescent tobacco use is well documented. In recent years, traditional tobacco cigarettes have largely given way to electronic cigarettes. Many studies have found that e-cigarettes and their secondhand aerosols contain dangerous and cancer-causing chemicals. Hazardous chemicals found in e-cigarette aerosols include propylene glycol, nicotine, heavy metals, volatile organic compounds, and more. While the long-term effects of e-cigarettes are still unknown, exposure to chemicals found in e-cigarettes and their aerosols can be especially problematic to children's health and development.

To be added as a co-sponsor of this bill, please respond to this email or call Rep. Billings' office at 6-5780 by 5 pm on Wednesday, January 24.

***Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau***

This bill prohibits vaping on school premises. Under the bill, "school premises" is defined as any real property owned by, rented by, or under the control of a school board, operator or governing board of an independent charter school, or governing body of a private school. "School premises" includes outdoor spaces such as playgrounds and athletic fields. The bill defines vaping as inhaling or exhaling vapor from an electronic smoking device, which is defined as a device that may be used to deliver any aerosolized or vaporized liquid or other substance for inhalation, regardless of whether the liquid or other substance contains nicotine.